

# PAWHUSKA

**T**HE capital of the richest county in the United States, a city of remarkable progress and marvelous possibilities—pleasing—picturesque—prosperous—the happy home of happy people

Situated in the heart of the beautiful Osage nation, Pawhuska is one of the most attractive and most favored cities of the southwest. It is the capital of the Osage nation, and the county seat of Osage county. Originally, Pawhuska was an Indian trading post, founded in 1872, when the Osages were removed by the United States government from Kansas to this reservation. Until the Midland Valley railroad was built through Bird Creek valley, in which the city is located, in 1906, it was little more than an Indian village. From that time, it began a rapid development which has not yet nearly reached its height.

At the present time, Pawhuska is a city of 6,000 population, and the number of her citizens is increasing daily. With the development of the oil and gas resources of the county, which began when oil was found in the spring of 1913, and which have thus far been little more than touched, there has been a corresponding demand for all the business facilities which help make a lively and prosperous city. The members of the Osage tribe, about 2,300 in number, own a large per cent of the million and a half acres of land in the county, and are known as the wealthiest race in the world. Something like one-tenth of this land is leased for oil purposes. Approximately \$30,000,000 is distributed in quarterly per capita payments to the members of the tribe. The most of this money is royalties derived from the oil lands, though a portion of it is interest upon a registered debt of \$8,000,000 which the United States government owes to the Osage tribe, and a small amount is paid by stockmen who pasture their cattle on the rich Indian lands. This vast wealth naturally increases the prosperity of the entire community.

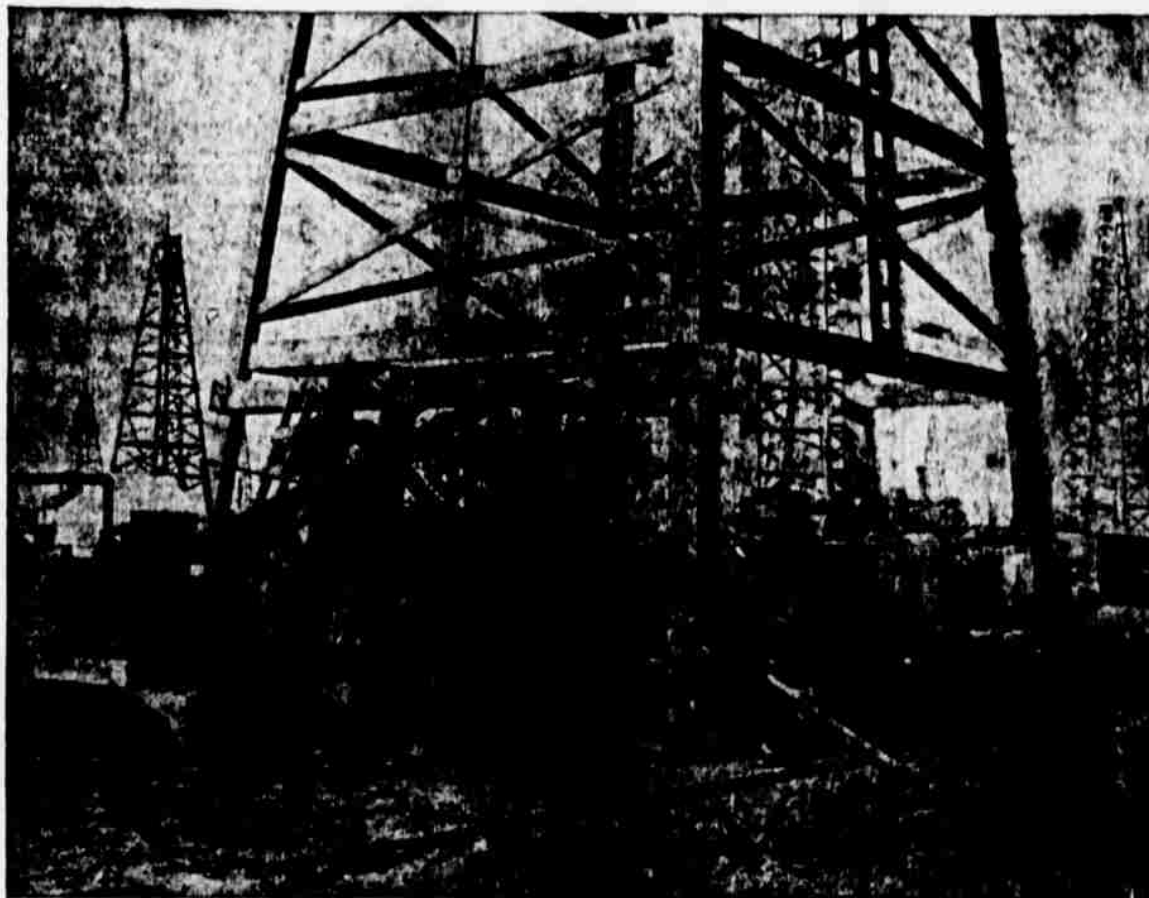
In addition to four banks which have been established for some time, two more have recently been added to the number and will be operating in a very short time. The total capitalization of these six banks amounts to \$360,000, and the deposits are enormous. A trust company, which operates in connection with one of these banks, has a capital stock of \$200,000. The building and loan association, which has been in operation for less than a year, has recently doubled its capitalization to a million dollars, and is doing much to build Pawhuska along the best and most approved lines.

Methodist, Baptist, Christian, Presbyterian, Holiness, Christian Science, Episcopal and Catholic churches have buildings and ministers. The schools of the city are of the best but have become somewhat inadequate because overcrowded. Funds are being provided and plans made for a new high school building which will relieve this condition, and make easier the work of a very competent supervisor and an able corps of teachers.

The high school curriculum includes such special subjects as manual training, domestic science, commercial subjects, military training and calisthenics.

An active commercial club, with a large membership, club rooms and a paid secretary, does much to further the interests of the community. This club aided in financing the annual County Free Fair, and, with the co-operation of other clubs of the county, employs two men to help enforce liquor laws within the county. One of the most recent activities has been helping to boost the State Good Roads association, and generously contributing to the financing of that association. The commercial club was responsible for the marking of the cross-county highway. The operation of a shuttle train across the county from Nelagoney to Foraker was initiated by the club. This train, cutting through the main oil territory, is particularly a convenience to those interested in the oil field activities. The commercial club takes an active interest in assisting newcomers in all possible ways, and may be consulted for information by those who wish to investigate the advantages and opportunities offered by Pawhuska.

The Midland Valley railroad runs daily trains through Pawhuska, and a motor line between Pawhuska and Nelagoney connects the city with the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroad. The new branch of the Santa Fe passing through Pawhuska, which has been partially built, will be completed within a few months. This branch will shorten the route between Oklahoma City and Kansas City by 60 miles, and give Pawhuska a direct east and west mail route. With the addition of this Santa Fe service, railroad accommodations will equal any in the state aside from the larger cities. The large and varied amount of freight and express handled through this station makes it an important shipping point. At the present time the Midland Valley railroad has daily



A DRILLING WELL NEAR PAWHUSKA, WHICH MADE 7,000 BARRELS IN 24 HOURS

calls for trackage privileges from the various business interests.

As to natural advantages, Pawhuska is particularly favored. It is located on high, well-drained ground, and two nearby streams, Clear Creek and Bird Creek, afford an abundant supply of wholesome water. The bonding contract to provide for an improved water system, which will be able to care for the needs of a city of twice or three times the present size of Pawhuska, will be voted upon at the next meeting of the city council. The streets of the business district are well-paved with Oklahoma asphaltum, as are some of the residence streets. Most of the business houses are new, and are of brick and stone structure. The largest building, called the "Triangle" because of its shape, is built at the intersection of the three busiest streets, and is five stories high. The court house, buildings of the Osage agency and many of the residences of the city are built upon a height overlooking the business section and the surrounding country. The agency buildings, which include Administration hall, the Osage Council chamber, school buildings and dormitories, and homes for the agent, his assistants and the teachers, are set in a beautiful park of 83 acres. The residential section of the city contains many beautiful and modern homes, and many more are being built. Concrete sidewalks and numerous trees add to its attractive appearance.

An abundance of natural gas affords fuel for home and business consumption, and electricity is available for lighting and other purposes. With these facilities, Pawhuska should be particularly attractive to manufacturers.

Pawhuska owes much to the fact that her citizens, Indian as well as Caucasian, are intelligent, ambitious and progressive; eager to seize every opportunity to develop and better their city and the county. Pope's depiction of "Lo, the poor Indian" is far, indeed, from the truth when one considers the Osages, who are not only materially the wealthiest people upon the face of the earth, but are of high mental attainments and sound business acumen. Though the government recognizes its debt to the original inhabitants of the country by trying to safeguard their interests, it is undoubtedly true that in many instances the Osages are quite as competent to manage their own interests as any Caucasian.

Although the development of the oil and gas resources of Osage county has been more spectacular, steady progress has been made by the livestock industry. It is no exaggeration to say that the future of this industry is the greatest of all the interests of the county. At the present time, Osage county leads all of Oklahoma in the production of pure-bred livestock. Not only are several of the herds the finest of their kind in the state, but some of the individual members of these herds are prize-winners. Several of the finest ranches and herds are owned by Osages, who take particular pride in the highest development of their ranches and of the quality of their livestock. While a few men have highly bred horses and hogs, stockmen have given the most of their attention to cattle. The rolling, well-watered eastern section of the county is especially adapted

to the livestock business, and the stockmen are working co-operatively, as well as individually, to promote it. A short time ago a meeting was held, in connection with representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture, of the livestock producers, for the purpose of organizing the Osage County Cattleman's Association, discussing the problems of stockmen and planning to further the development of their interests. This is a marked contrast to the rough-and-ready methods of early days, when the expenditure of effort and money was kept as low as possible, and cattle of the long horn type grazed over the rich pasture lands of the Osage. Then no one realized the enormously satisfactory results of high-grade stock, well cared for, particularly in the winter months when feed is scarce. Now, the livestock business is receiving intelligent oversight which will make it the source of great wealth when other resources of the county have been exhausted. Nowhere has there been a better example of what modern, scientific methods can do toward bringing such an industry up to a high standard.

In connection of the rapid development of the livestock industry, has come a realization of the agricultural possibilities of the county. While the eastern portion of the county is particularly adapted to stock raising, the western section is better suited to agriculture. It is more level than the land to the east, is very fertile, and is especially good for all cereal crops. In addition to those crops which are grown in more northern sections, cotton is successfully grown in Osage county. The agricultural development of the county is certain to be great, and so to add materially to the growth and prosperity of Pawhuska as well as the smaller towns in the county.

Although about thirty new houses are now under construction in Pawhuska, and a hundred more are planned, there is an actual existing need for more than this number. Moreover, the population of the city is increasing daily. The several lumber companies are taxed to meet the demands for material. One new modern hotel, with a capacity for many guests, has been planned and will be building soon. However, there is a great need for moderately-priced accommodations to care for those who are not able to pay hotel prices. At the present time, the hotels and rooming houses are filled each night and many have to be turned away.

In spite of all their efforts to adequately care for the local and transient patrons, the existing cafes and restaurants fall far short of meeting their needs. There would seem to be an exceptionally good opportunity for a first-class cafeteria, whose prices would be within the reach of clerks and others who do not feel they can afford to pay the prevailing high prices of the better eating places.

There are many more garages than one would expect to find in a city of Pawhuska's size, all modern and fine-equipped. In every case, their full capacity is required to meet the demands for their services. Since the Osage wealth is sufficient to permit such expenditures, most families own several automobiles. There are sales agents for most

of the popular makes of cars, and sales run very high.

All lines of business are well represented. There are several groceries, clothing stores, shoe stores, furniture stores, hardware stores, dry goods stores, drug stores, millineries and haberdasheries, all of which do a great deal of business. The call for the best in all things makes Pawhuska an exceedingly good town for the traveling salesman, as well as for merchants.

The various activities connected with petroleum production and refining have increased the volume of business in all lines, in Pawhuska and in Osage county as a whole. In addition to this, many new businesses which are more closely allied with oil field development have established themselves in Pawhuska and helped her growth and prosperity more than the most optimistic person would have believed possible a few years ago. Additional business houses for the service of the general public do not appear more rapidly than do new lumber companies, machine shops and supply houses. Three machine shops and three supply companies have recently joined Pawhuska's business ranks, and other concerns of a similar nature are now looking for sites.

The oil and gas resources of Osage county, and their development, might be given columns of comment and the half would not be said. It is hardly necessary to state that the development of these resources is of the greatest interest to the United States, and even to the world, in addition to the more immediate interest to the owners and lessees of the oil lands of the county. Though development is but little more than well started, Osage county is already regarded as one of the most promising of the larger oil fields in the southwest. If there were any doubt that opportunities to operate in the Osage are in great demand, an account of last Wednesday's sale of Osage oil leases would convince the most skeptical. The sale of the leases upon 16,800 acres of land, in tracts of 160 acres each, in the eastern portion of the county, totaled \$3,034,000, or an average of \$173.63 an acre. A smaller number of tracts in the west half brought an average of \$28.09 an acre. The following are the larger sales: Testlog Oil Company, \$100,000; Haverhill Petroleum Company, \$131,000; Gypsy Oil Company-Phillips Petroleum Company-McMann Oil Corporation-J. J. McGraw, \$141,000; Rex Oil and Gas Company and Pyramid Oil Company, \$154,000; Fleisher Petroleum Company-Old Dominion Oil Company, \$175,000; Gypsy Oil Company-Phillips Petroleum Company-E. P. Harwell and J. J. McGraw, \$210,000, and J. H. Alexander, \$300,000. At a similar sale held last October, the Gypsy Oil Company and allied interests purchased one tract for the sum of \$600,000. While half that figure was the highest reached in the recent sale, there is sufficient indication that development in the Osage will proceed rapidly, since these leases are sold subject to the immediate drilling of test wells.

According to an act of Congress approved June 28, 1906: "The oil, gas, coal or other minerals covered by the lands for the selection and division of which provision is herein made are hereby reserved to the Osage Tribe for a period of twenty-five years from and after the 8th day of April, 1906." After this period, they become the absolute property of the individual members of the tribe. In the meantime, the oil and mineral rights are leased as indicated in the preceding paragraph. The two lease sales held in 1918—in March and October—netted the Osage Tribe more than six millions of dollars. Recent development in the eastern part of the county gave a better idea of the confines of the oil pool there, and had much to do with the great interest in the leases in that section offered at this last sale.

The future of Pawhuska is hard to forecast, yet it is impossible to believe that the city will not continue to grow rapidly and steadily. The various civic improvements now under way are being undertaken with the idea of making ample provision for such growth. There seems to be no reason why Pawhuska should not, within a few months, compare favorably with such cities as Bartlesville and Arkansas City. Even if nothing were done to encourage its growth, the natural advantages and the constantly developing industries, aside from the oil business, are enough to insure an increase to two or three times its present size. And the oil activities, in themselves, are sufficient to necessitate the continued growth and prosperity of a city which is now much more prosperous than it is often the good fortune of any community to be. With the foresight and preparation which the commercial club and city fathers are exhibiting, the possibilities of Pawhuska's future are truly remarkable. When beauty and intelligent prosperity go hand in hand, there is little left to be desired.